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Investigation into the conditions and circumstances resulting in the tragic death of Dag Hammarskjöld and of the members of the party accompanying him

Investigation into the conditions and circumstances resulting in the tragic death of Dag Hammarskjöld and of the members of the party accompanying him

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/71/L.25

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/71/14) in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/71/L.25. During its consideration of the statement, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 6 December 2016.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/71/L.25, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to appoint an eminent person to review the potential new information, including that which may be available from Member States, to assess its probative value, to determine the scope that any further inquiry or investigation should take, and, if possible, to draw conclusions from the investigations already conducted.

3. In paragraph 3 of his statement, the Secretary-General indicates that the tasks of the eminent person are foreseen as follows:

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(a) To review the report of the Commission of Jurists on the Inquiry into the Death of Dag Hammarskjöld (A/68/800, annex) and the information relied on by the Commission in its report, together with any relevant records and information that might be provided by Member States;

(b) To review the report of the Independent Panel of Experts concerning the investigation into the conditions and circumstances resulting in the tragic death of Dag Hammarskjöld and of the members of the party accompanying him (see A/70/132) and the information relied on by the Panel in its report, as well as the information subsequently obtained from Member States and individuals, as referred to in the note by the Secretary-General of 17 August 2016 (A/70/1017);

(c) To interview witnesses, if necessary and appropriate;

(d) To produce a report, including a summary of and any findings on new information obtained since the conclusion of the work of the Panel; an assessment of the probative value of that new information; new statements from witnesses and new information obtained, as might be deemed appropriate by the eminent person; and a determination of the scope that any further inquiry should take or, alternatively, conclusions drawn from the investigations already conducted.

II. Resource requirements

4. In paragraph 4 of his statement, the Secretary-General indicates that related resource requirements would amount to $329,300 under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, broken down as follows (see A/C.5/71/14, para. 4, and the table thereunder):

(a) An amount of $233,800 under general temporary assistance, for one eminent person (Assistant Secretary-General) and a programme and reporting officer (P-4) for a period of six months each;

(b) An amount of $30,200 for one consultant to provide specialized expertise (forensics and document analysis);

(c) An amount of $57,200 for the travel of staff ;

(d) An amount of $3,500 for contractual services;

(e) An amount of $4,100 for general operating expenses;

(f) An amount of $500 for supplies and materials.

5. In paragraph 5 of his statement, the Secretary-General indicates that no provisions have been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 for the implementation of the activities requested under operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution and that it is not possible to identify activities within the section concerned of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium. The Secretary-General states that it is therefore necessary that the additional resources in the amount of $329,300 be provided through an additional appropriation for the biennium 2016-2017.

6. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with a breakdown of the resource requirements under consultants, travel and general operating expenses. The Committee notes that the resources proposed to cover the cost for consultants include the amount of $11,057 for travel of one consultant to New York from an undetermined place of departure and the amount of $4,074 for round-trip travel of one consultant from New York to Johannesburg. **Given that the details of the travel itinerary of one consultant are unclear, the Committee is not convinced that a basis exists for the calculation of the travel resources for the consultant, and recommends a reduction of 10 per cent, in the amount of $3,000. The Committee recommends the approval of the remaining proposed resource requirements, amounting to $326,300.**

7. The Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that any resource requirements related to the issuance and publication of the report of the eminent person, as described in paragraph 3 (d) above, would be absorbed and no additional resource requirements would be proposed in that regard.

III. Conclusion

8. **Taking into account its observations set out above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should the Assembly adopt draft resolution A/71/L.25, an additional appropriation of $326,300 would be required under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, representing a charge against the contingency fund.**